82. Proposals for the re-organization of the subordinate forest staff, referred to in paragraphs 103 and 104 of last year's report, have not been sanctioned yet, but are still under the consideration of Government.

83. The following statement will show the existing strength and cost of the office establishment of the Northern Circle in which there was no change during the year :—

No.	Division.	Number and Gradation.											Monthly Cost.
		Clerks.								Peons.			
		Rs. 100.	Rs. 80.	Rs. 60.	Rs. 50.	Rs. 40.	Rs. 30.	Rs. 20.	Rs. 15.	Rs. 10.	Rs. 9.	Rs. 8.	
													Rs.
1	Direction	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	...	1	1	5	579
2	North Thána	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	1	3	203
2	South Thána	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	1	3	203
4	East Khándesh ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
5	West Khándesh ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
6	Násik	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
7	Ahmednagar	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	...	1	3	173
8	Poona	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
9	Sátára	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	..	1	3	183
10	Sholápur	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	1	3	158
11	Surat	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
12	Panch Mahálsa.. ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	1	3	158
13	7 Sub-Assistant Conservators' Offices ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	14	217
	Total ...	1	1	1	10	7	13	22	27	1	12	52	2,789

84. The total expenditure incurred upon forest establishments during the year has amounted to Rs. 4,58,993-3-9 as under :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
B. *I.a.*—Conservator's salary	18,000	0	0
B. *II.a.*—Conservator's travelling allowance ...	2,400	0	0
B. *I.b.*—Superior officers' salary	1,03,385	15	5
B. *II.b.*—Superior officers' travelling allowance ...	25,865	0	11
B. *I.c.*—Subordinate protective establishment's salary ...	2,49,169	13	8
B. *II.c.*—Subordinate protective establishment's travelling allowance	14,774	2	2
B. *I.d.*—Office establishment's salary	34,256	1	3
B. *II.d.*—Office establishment's travelling allowance ...	11,142	2	4
Total ...	4,58,993	3	9

2.—GENERAL PROTECTION AND BREACHES OF THE FOREST LAW.

85. Sixty-five cases of criminal prosecutions were awaiting trial by Magistrates when the official year opened ; four of these cases belonged to the two ranges, Karjat and Khálápur, which have been transferred to the Southern Circle, and they have therefore been deducted from the opening balance, which was then left at 61 : during the year 1891-92, 1,314 new cases were sent up to the Criminal Courts, making 1,375 cases on the registers. Out of this number, 1,262 cases were disposed of during the year, with the result that in 988 cases convictions were obtained and 274 cases were acquitted. 2,489 persons were convicted and punished, and 889 persons escaped under the 274 cases, which were acquitted. At the close of the year 113 cases were awaiting trial.

86. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of the number of cases tried before Magistrates for breaches of the forest law, during the year under report and the year preceding, with the results of the trials :—

No.	Division.	1890-91.		1891-92.		Percentage of failures.		Remarks.
		Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	1890-91	1891-92.	
1	North Thána	214	25	158	18	11·6	11·3	
2	South Thána	130	41	113	30	31·5	26·5	
3	East Khándesh	119	14	44	8	11·7	18·1	
4	West Khándesh	126	23	76	18	18·2	23·6	
5	Násik	87	30	118	18	34·5	15·2	
6	Ahmednagar	95	31	166	36	32·6	21·6	
7	Poona	474	110	241	58	23·2	24·0	
8	Sátára	37	11	105	27	29·7	25·7	
9	Sholápur	97	24	176	55	24·7	31·2	
10	Surat	4	3	3	1	75·0	33·3	
11	Panch Maháls	50	10	62	5	20·0	8·0	
	Total ...	1,433	322	1,262	274	22·4	21·7	

87. In the North Thána division some bad cases of looting the forests were discovered in the Bassein range. The contractor of the Shirgaon coupe was prosecuted before the Second Class Magistrate, because some standards had been felled illicitly in the coupe, it is alleged by his direction, and a conviction was obtained, and the contractor and one of his servants were sentenced each of them to 15 days' simple imprisonment, and the former to a fine of Rs. 100 in addition. But on appeal the conviction was upset on a technical point. The Sálsette forests are looted pretty considerably by men and women who resort to them for the removal of firewood in head-loads, for sale in the suburbs of the city of Bombay, the coast villages of Sálsette, and in the town of Thána; these people manufacture dead wood by ringing and killing young trees, and it is very difficult to catch them in the act, and to stop this head-load depredation; the commercial value assessed by a village panch of a bundle of faggots is small, and the offence viewed in this aspect is one of "light gravity" which does not call for heavy punishment, consequently the venture of running head-loads is a paying business. There is no extensive looting in any of the other ranges, but Dhowda (Anogeissus latifolia) saplings are felled and stolen for cart-axles, and Khair trees (Acacia catechu) for ploughs. The system of working plans with numerous blocks and coupes has done very much to extinguish the heavy looting of the Thána forests for the export trade, which used to be proverbial. The number of cases sent up to the Courts for trial is 25 per cent. less than during the year before, and gives about one to every 3,000 acres of forest; the percentage of failures is a trifle lower than before.

88. In the South Thána division the number of cases prosecuted has decreased by 21·5 per cent., owing in a measure to the loss of two ranges, Karjat and Khálápur, and also to the completion of the Tánsa water-works, and the consequent disappearance of the thousands of labourers, who were employed upon the duct-line, which passes in a tortuous course through the division from east to west. Concurrently the number of acquittals has decreased by 5·9 per cent. The following figures are instructive; and seeing that the forests are scattered over 660 square miles of country, they cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory, especially as the protection of the forests against thefts is, except in a few localities, very fair:—

Range.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons prosecuted	Number of Persons convicted.	Number of Persons acquitted.	Number of Persons awaiting trial.	
Bhiwndi	47	86	66	20	33	13 cases.
Shábápur	20	68	48	20	...	
Khardi	17	40	33	7	27	
Mokháda	4	13	13	...	...	
Kalyán	20	41	36	5	...	
Murbád	22	63	49	19	...	
Total ...	130	311	245	71	60	13

89 The following cases are worthy of brief mention :—

(1) In the Murbád range 26 Kolis descended from the Junnar táluka above the Sáhyádris, and made a raid upon the Palu forest, and were detected by three forest guards, who were unable to arrest them as the Kolis showed fight; but the guards followed them up the ghâts to Junnar, where the Kolis were caught with the stolen timber, and on being prosecuted, ten accused were sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment, two to 15 days' rigorous imprisonment, and one, a boy of 15 or 16 years age, to 8 days' rigorous imprisonment. The others got off for want of evidence.

(2) In the Khardi range about 100 teak trees were felled in the Temburli forest by one Narayen Tukajirao of Temburli, who showed a permit alleged to have been given him by the Mámlatdár as his warrant, but it was found to be a forgery; and he was fined, convicted and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

(3) Four persons of Gholsai were caught by Annaji Babaji, Forest Guard, felling a teak tree, and were tried, convicted and sentenced, two of them to a fine of Rs. 30 each, and the other two to a fine of Rs. 20 each. The timber felled by them, with the cart, bullock and axes used in the commission of the offence were confiscated and sold for Rs. 77. This abnormally heavy punishment has had a deterrent effect which the usual punishments in such cases of petty fines failed to secure.

90. In the East Khándesh division the number of prosecutions shows a decrease of 75 per cent., but the percentage of failures has risen from 11·7 to 18·2. The reason for the fewer number of prosecutions is, that all cases of breach of the rules under Section 41 of the Forest Act were compounded, and none were sent into the Criminal Courts; and the Divisional Forest Officer explains that the reason for the increase in the acquittal is that the Subordinate Magistrates are reluctant to convict, although the offence may be proved, when a criminal intention has not been exhibited. The District Magistrate has remarked: "There is no doubt a tendency in Magistrates to look to the intent in all cases brought before them, but a circular is being issued, which it is hoped may be of some assistance." After all it should be remembered that 800 square miles of forest lands, spread over a very large area, are affected, and out of 44 cases prosecuted, or 1 case to about 12,000 acres, 8 only have been let off.

91. The number of prosecutions in West Khándesh is 40 per cent. less than of the preceding year, but nearly one-fourth were acquitted. The Divisional Forest Officer explains that great care is taken to thoroughly scrutinize every case before it is sent into Court; and seemingly the rock upon which the prosecutions have come to grief is "no criminal intention." A pátil was charged in the Nandurbár range with setting the forests on fire while smoking, and also with bribing the villagers with Rs. 20, not to tell against him: he was tried and acquitted on the charge of firing the forest, but was found guilty of bribery and was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 50. In this division there are over 1,200 square miles of forest, and 76 cases have been prosecuted, or one case in about 9,600 acres; of these 18 were let off.

92. An increase in the number of prosecutions appears in the Násik division, 118 cases, of which 20 were old, having been tried, affecting a forest area of nearly 1,200 square miles; the number of acquittals is only 18; and the percentage of failures has decreased from 34·5 to 18·0. The greater number, 54, of the new cases of the year were for grazing within closed forest wherein grazing is prohibited.

93. In the Ahmednagar district also the number of prosecutions has increased from 95 to 166: here we have 831 square miles of forest, and strict forest protection especially important as the climatical conditions are not favourable to the reboisement of barren uplands. The number of acquittals is 36, and the percentage has declined from 32·6 to 21·6. In 171 cases of discovered forest offences the offenders could not be found. In 136 trivial cases the offenders were let off with caution.

94. The prosecutions in the Poona division have fallen from 474 cases to 241, of which 58 failed to secure conviction, the percentage of failures having risen slightly from 23·2 to 24·0; 133 of the cases were for illicit grazing.

95. The Sátára division sent up 105 cases to the Courts, against 35 of the previous year, and 27 failed, which gives a percentage of 25·7. In two ranges there were no prosecutions, and in two others no acquittals; in the Sátára range one prosecution only, which succeeded; 164 discovered cases, in respect of which the offender was not found, were reported. The District Magistrate remarks: "The village Panchayats are prone to take a lenient view of forest offences and assess the damages done at a low rate; so also there is a tendency on the part of Magistrates to inflict light punishments for forest offences, and hence very little fear is felt by such offenders when they are caught."

96. In the Sholápur division 176 cases were tried during the year; thus there has been an increase of 79; and the dismissals were 55 against 24 of the previous year, the percentage of failures having risen from 24·7 to 31·2.

97. Only three cases were taken into the Magistrate's Court in the Surat division, and one of these was dismissed through the witnesses having turned round, but the Magistrate recorded his conviction of the accused's guilt. In addition to these cases a forest guard, Kánchanprasád Hirámán, was prosecuted before the Assistant Political Agent of Khándesh for extorting money under threat from a Dáng villager caught collecting mhowra flowers, and he was convicted and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

98. An increase in the number of cases prosecuted is likewise apparent in the Panch Mahals division, the figures having risen from 50 to 62, but the percentage of failures has declined from 10 to 8. Sixty of the cases were for illicit felling of trees or stealing timber, and 110 persons were convicted and punished in connection with them.

99. Taking the whole of the Northern Circle with its 8,663·5 square miles of forest under conservancy administration of the Forest Act, it cannot be urged that Forest Officers have been precipitate in sending up cases to Criminal Courts, for it will be seen that the average given is about 1 case to 4,393 acres of forest land. Forest reserves are spread over the face of nature, representing a very large expanse of country, and the difficulty of protecting them is consequently much greater than if they were in a solid compact mass. Density of population, the state of a district in regard to its ligneous vegetation, and conditions of supply and demand are important factors in determining the proportions of forest crime; and it may be very safely urged that in the Deccan districts, while the difficulties of protecting forest growth are more considerable, the temptations to commit offences are beyond measure greater than existing, in Kánara for instance, with its magnificent forests of splendid timber of untold wealth and a comparatively sparse population, having no great and hungry market within its limits or at its threshold.

100. The distribution of the 113 cases remaining pending in the Criminal Courts at the close of the year in the different divisions is:—

No.	Division.	Number of Cases.
1	North Thána	9
2	South Thána	17
3	East Khándesh	9
4	West Khándesh	5
5	Násik	18
6	Ahmednagar	14
7	Poona	9
8	Sátára	17
9	Sholápur	13
10	Surat	.....
11	Panch Mahals	2
	Total ...	113

101. The following statement gives a classification of the new cases of the year of this report:—

No.	Division.	Offences relating to the misappropriation of				Total.
		(a) Timber.	(b) Firewood.	(c) Minor Forest Produce.	(d) Other Offences.	
1	North Thána	37	8	6	107	158
2	South Thána	110	...	3	...	113
3	East Khándesh	9	11	14	10	44
4	West Khándesh	8	3	32	33	76
5	Násik	40	...	...	78	118
6	Ahmednagar	15	9	2	140	166
7	Poona	21	39	10	171	241
8	Sátára	29	12	...	64	105
9	Sholápur	...	6	1	169	176
10	Surat	3	...	...	...	3
11	Panch Mahals	53	7	...	2	62
	Total ...	325	95	68	774	1,262

102. The number of cases compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act during the year of the report, and the year before, is given in the following statement as directed in Government Resolution No. 3527, dated 2nd May 1884, in the Revenue Department:—

No.	Division.	Taken into Court.		Compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act.		Total number of Cases.	
		1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.
1	North Thána	214	158	99	96	313	254
2	South Thána	130	113	356	254	486	367
3	East Khándesh	119	44	1,246	1,570	1,365	1,614
4	West Khándesh	126	76	1,168	1,248	1,294	1,324
5	Násik	87	118	1,029	1,472	1,116	1,590
6	Ahmednagar	95	166	2,481	2,941	2,576	3,107
7	Poona	474	241	1,707	2,061	2,181	2,302
8	Sátára	37	105	147	923	184	1,028
9	Sholápur	97	176	1,553	1,608	1,650	1,784
10	Surat	4	3	20	17	24	20
11	Panch Mahals	50	62	111	135	161	197
	Total ...	1,433	1,262	9,917	12,325	11,350	13,587

103. The classification of the cases compounded during the year is given below, as desired in Government Resolution No. 7232, dated 12th September 1892, Revenue Department:—

No.	Division.	Offences relating to the misappropriation of				Total.	Remarks.
		(a) Timber.	(b) Firewood.	(c) Minor Forest Produce.	(d) Other Offences.		
1	North Thána	41	24	21	10	96	
2	South Thána	200	...	11	43	254	
3	East Khándesh	2	217	660	691	1,570	
4	West Khándesh	114	184	764	186	1,248	
5	Násik	561	...	9	902	1,472	
6	Ahmednagar	14	205	1	2,721	2,941	
7	Poona	79	323	10	1,649	2,061	
8	Sátára	112	297	...	514	923	
9	Sholápur	4	12	1	1,591	1,608	
10	Surat	9	4	4	...	17	
11	Panch Mahals	92	11	24	8	135	
	Total ...	1,228	1,277	1,505	8,315	12,325	

(4) the number of cases in which appeals were made;

(5) the manner in which appeals were disposed.

This statement was directed by Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 13th March 1891, paragraph 11:—

No.	Division.	Number of Complaints disposed of under Section 67.	Number of Cases in which Compensation has been accepted.	Number of Appeals against the Proceedings.	Manner in which Appeals have been disposed of.	Remarks.
1	North Thána ...	96	96	Nil.	...	
2	South Thána ...	254	254	,,	...	
3	East Khándesh...	1,570	1,570	,,	...	
4	West Khándesh..	1,248	1,248	,,	...	
5	Násik	1,472	962	,,	...	In 510 cases the offenders were let off with a warning.
6	Ahmednagar ...	2,941	2,941	,,	...	In Ahmednagar the Divisional Forest Officer let off many cases wherein the village panch had assessed the damages at below 4 annas.
7	Poona	2,061	2,061	,,	...	
8	Sátára	923	923	,,	...	
9	Sholápur ...	1,608	1,608	,,	...	
10	Surat	17	17	,,	...	
11	Panch Mahals ...	135	132	,,	...	In 3 cases the offenders were let off with a warning.
	Total ...	12,325	11,812	Nil.	Nil.	

108. The appeal shown as "not disposed of during the year" against Násik in the statement embodied in paragraph 118 of last year's report was decided by the District Magistrate, who reduced the amount of compensation which had been fixed originally, and the reduced sum was then offered by the accused, and was accepted by the Divisional Forest Officer.

109. The following statement shows the progressive increase of cases compounded by Forest Officers in the Northern Circle since 1882-83, under Section 67 of the Forest Act. Only two appeals have been made in the ten years against the order of the Divisional Forest Officers, in the 51,668 cases settled by them outside the Magisterial Courts:—

No.	Division.	Number of cases compounded during the years.										Remarks.
		1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	
1	North Thána	8	11	13	39	23	26	38	46	99	96	
2	South Thána	28	33	31	31	107	182	306	211	356	254	
3	East Khándesh	122	61	126	144	117	153	280	446	1,246	1,570	
4	West Khándesh	58	40	300	254	195	254	454	492	1,168	1,248	
5	Násik	73	79	195	564	828	714	1,137	852	1,029	1,472	
6	Ahmednagar	50	268	1,132	1,929	1,805	2,115	2,199	2,157	2,481	2,941	
7	Poona	56	61	133	278	463	449	439	742	1,707	2,061	
8	Sátára	...	...	49	67	54	186	250	280	147	923	
9	Sholápur	58	193	317	461	625	977	952	1,165	1,353	1,608	
10	Surat	...	...	3	4	10	21	17	26	20	17	
11	Panch Mahals	...	4	11	56	78	65	82	68	111	135	
	Total ...	453	750	2,310	3,827	4,305	5,142	6,154	6,485	9,917	12,325	

110. The classification of the sums of money accepted under Section 67, in amounts of rupee one and upwards, to the maximum permitted by the law, is

104. The sums realised from cases compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act, in the several divisions of the Northern Circle, during the year under report, are given in the following statement as directed in Government Resolution No. 8738, dated 24th December 1887, in the Revenue Department; this money is credited without any deduction in respect of any rewards which may have been given to persons who may have contributed to the detection of cases, under Receipts V (*c*), in accordance with the system of classification of Forest accounts, prescribed in the list published with Government Resolution in the Revenue Department, No. 2420, dated 8th April 1891; previously all sums realised by way of compensation for damage done to a forest were classified and credited as revenue of the forest damaged:—

No.	Division.	Amount.			Remarks.
		Rs.	a.	p.	
1	North Thána...	326	13	6	
2	South Thána	542	15	3	
3	East Khándesh	5,717	0	2	
4	West Khándesh	5,719	11	1	
5	Násik	4,828	1	2	
6	Ahmednagar...	5,290	14	2	
7	Poona	3,857	12	7	
8	Sátára	1,688	8	6	
9	Sholápur	2,164	14	4	
10	Surat	106	2	3	
11	Panch Mahâls	170	14	6	
	Total ...	30,413	11	6	

105. The following statement exhibits the number of compounded cases in respect of which rewards have been paid to persons, who have contributed to the detection of the cases, together with the amounts paid in rewards, under the rule embodied in Government Resolution No. 8568, dated 16th December 1887, in the Revenue Department, which reads thus: "Rewards to persons contributing to the detection of a case may be given up to a maximum, in each case, of Rs. 10 and within the limit of the sum realised by the Divisional Forest Officer, and above Rs. 10 and within the limit of the sum realised by the Conservator":—

No.	Division.	Number of Cases.	Rewards amounting to											Total Amount paid.	Remarks.
			Re. 1.	Rs. 2.	Rs. 3.	Rs. 4.	Rs. 5.	Rs. 6.	Rs. 7.	Rs. 8.	Rs. 9.	Rs. 10.	More than Rs. 10.		
1	North Thána ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	
2	South Thána ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3	East Khándesh ...	20	2	4	5	1	3	...	1	...	...	1	*3	107	* But below Rs. 20.
4	West Khándesh ...	414	273	71	33	14	7	3	5	...	1	7	...	737	
5	Násik	52	†28	8	1	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	138	†Out of this 17 cases are for rewards below Re. 1.
6	Ahmednagar ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	25	
7	Poona	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	
8	Sátára	678	‡597	62	14	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	264	‡ Out of this, 574 cases are for rewards below Re. 1.
9	Sholápur	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	
10	Surat	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	
11	Panch Mahâls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Total ...	1,167	900	145	53	19	19	4	8	1	2	11	5	1,271	

106. It will be seen that in a total number of 1,167 cases rewards aggregating Rs. 1,271 were paid against a total number of 12,325 cases compounded with a total sum of Rs. 30,413-11 6 credited in compensation. The cost of rewards is charged in the Forest Accounts to A IX c. against Budget provision.

107. The following statement shows—

(1) the number of cases sent up to the Divisional Forest Officer for consideration under Section 67 of the Forest Act;

(2) the number of cases in which the compensation offered by the accused has been accepted by Forest Officers;

(3) the number of cases which were considered by the Divisional Forest Officer to be too trifling for notice under Section 67, and which were dismissed accordingly;

given in the following statement, as directed in Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 13th March 1891, in the Revenue Department:—

No.	Division.	Number of cases in which compensation was fixed at rupees																							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	North Thána ..	36	19	10	6	8	5	..	5	..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	South Thána ..	183	85	10	9	6	2	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
3	East Khándesh.	882	200	88	54	69	36	28	31	17	24	14	19	5	3	15	6	7	3	1	8	3	5	3	4	7
4	West Khándesh	547	178	93	86	62	44	26	30	18	33	10	20	7	7	9	6	1	2	4	11	2	3	2	..	6
5	Násik	369	140	97	76	57	42	20	18	8	22	..	15	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	19
6	Ahmednagar ..	1,667	612	266	122	65	44	10	25	13	16	8	7	11	5	7	1	8	..	1	1	2	..	1	3	2
7	Poona	1,226	395	156	92	68	25	25	16	9	12	2	3	2	3	2	4	2	2	..	3	..	1	..	..	5
8	Sátára	466	187	90	55	36	24	17	13	3	7	6	4	3	1	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	1
9	Sholápur ..	1,022	295	125	56	36	21	12	15	6	3	2	..	1	3	3	..	1	2	..	..	1	4	..	..	..
10	Surat	7	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
11	Panch Mahális .	111	11	4	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ...	6,516	2,072	944	558	408	243	173	154	77	122	42	68	30	25	63	17	19	12	7	49	8	14	6	8	40

No.	Division.	Number of cases in which compensation was fixed at rupees—*continued.*																							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	Total.
1	North Thána ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
2	South Thána ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	254
3	East Khándesh.	4	2	..	1	5	1	5	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	8	1,570
4	West Khándesh	1	2	2	1	5	1	..	1	3	2	..	..	2	4	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1,248
5	Násik	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	962
6	Ahmednagar ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	2,941
7	Poona	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2,061
8	Sátára	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	923
9	Sholápur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,608
10	Surat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	17
11	Panch Mahális .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	132
	Total ..	8	4	3	4	24	2	8	4	4	2	..	..	3	5	16	2	3	1	..	1	2	..	3	2	36	11,812

111. The number of cases disposed of by Assistant Collectors under Section 43 of the Land Revenue Code, in accordance with Government Resolution No. 7844, dated 3rd October 1884, in the Revenue Department, in respect of the Protected Forests of the two Thána divisions, as compared with that of the preceding year, is given in the following statement :—

No.	Division.	1890-91.					1891-92.					Remarks.
		Number of Cases.	Value of Forest Produce.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Amount of Fines.	Number of Cases.	Value of Forest Produce.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Amount of Fines.	
			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.	
1	North Thána ...	*44	73 0 0	...	2	119 0 0	5	8 5 3	...	5	6 7 9	* Out of the 42 cases remaining undisposed of last year 14 have been disposed of during 1891-92 and 28 still remain to be disposed of.
2	South Thána ...	6	36 0 0	...	6	8 0 0	1	1 8 0	...	1	1 8 0	
	Total ...	50	109 0 0	...	8	127 0 0	6	9 13 3	...	6	7 15 9	

112. There was a decrease on the whole in the number of prosecutions taken into the Criminal Courts, being 1,262 against 1,433 in the year preceding, but on the other hand, there was an increase of 2,408 in the number of cases compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act, during the official year ending the 31st March 1892.

113. The Collector's remarks on the East-Khándesh administration report, on this head, read as under:—

"Considerable more use has been made of the provisions of the Act which allows cases to be compounded, there being a total increase of 324 cases as compared with 1890-91. This increase is chiefly in minor breaches, grazing, &c., and it is much better to treat these cases in this way than to spend time and money in prosecuting the offenders. No doubt, as pointed out by Mr. Desái, the temptation to graze now in closed areas is greater than before. There may come a time then when it will become necessary to treat such offences more severely in order to check the increasing inclination to trespass in closed forest."

114. The Collector of Sátára remarks that many cases under Section 67 of the Forest Act were left undisposed of by the previous Divisional Forest Officer, and Mr. Fagan had to clear them off. "There is no undue use of this section now."

115. The Collector of the Panch Maháls has recorded: "Prosecutions and compoundings show an increase over the previous year. It is satisfactory to note that the percentage of failure in action of the former sort is reduced, and the procedure of the Divisional Forest Officer appears to have been generally judicious. More strictness is required in dealing with professional graziers, especially in the neighbourhood of Chapaner block. Not only does that part of the block, which lies near the Chárans settlements, show severe signs of over-grazing, but in the neighbouring forest block where grazing is allowed, the axe is freely used by the graziers."

116. The Collector of Ahmednagar in his forwarding observations suggests "that it might be worthwhile suggesting to Government that all Magistrates should be appointed Forest Officers for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Section 67. Under present arrangements the whole of the final responsibility for this work is virtually thrown on the Divisional Forest Officer, who, in the present instance, has had to dispose of nearly 3,000 cases, most of them of a trivial nature, during the year.

117. The number of cattle of different kinds impounded in the several divisions of the Northern Circle, under Section 69 of the Forest Act, for trespassing into closed portions of forests, as also for grazing in open forest areas without passes, is given in the following statement, as directed in paragraph 13 of Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 13th March 1891, Revenue Department:—

No.	Division.	Kind of Forest Area.	Cows and Bullocks.	Buffaloes.	Camels.	Horses.	Asses.	Sheep.	Goats.	Total in Closed Area.	Total in Open Area.
1	North Thána ...	Closed ...	867	170	...	...	...	...	516	1,553	...
		Open ...	250	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	286
2	South Thána ...	Closed ...	532	69	...	...	...	...	79	680	...
		Open ...	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
3	East Khándesh ...	Closed ...	7,610	839	...	48	...	2,303	1,656	12,456	...
		Open ...	6,437	922	...	21	...	10,294	2,552	...	20,226
4	West Khándesh ...	Closed ...	12,220	1,498	...	117	14	4,048	1,435	19,342	...
		Open ...	2,332	191	...	19	32	1,368	1,216	...	5,158
5	Násik	Closed ...	8,816	873	...	131	29	16,867	5,925	32,641	...
		Open ...	8,115	473	2	147	...	12,104	4,466	...	25,307
6	Ahmednagar ...	Closed ...	22,074	1,560	...	210	69	12,911	9,884	46,708	...
		Open ...	19,545	1,272	...	477	107	16,109	11,155	...	48,365
7	Poona	Closed ...	9,135	759	...	124	59	12,127	4,545	26,749	...
		Open ...	4,451	522	...	82	41	6,859	6,964	...	18,919
8	Sátára	Closed ...	7,797	1,833	...	98	32	2,025	10,601	22,386	...
		Open ...	2 553	803	...	59	15	1,406	9,103	...	14,034
9	Sholápur	Closed ...	24,893	2,270	...	214	132	8,772	2,958	38,239	...
		Open ...	1,193	135	...	13	...	1,550	219	...	3,110
10	Surat	Closed ...	121	64	...	...	...	...	194	379	...
		Open ...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
11	Panch Maháls ...	Closed ...	117	1	...	...	...	...	4	122	...
		Open ...	260	46	...	...	4	112	1.173	...	1,595
	Total ...	Closed ...	94,192	9,936	...	942	335	59,053	37,797	2,02,255	...
		Open ...	45,159	4,418	2	518	199	49,892	36,853	...	1,37,041

118. The numbers of cattle impounded last year, (*a*) for trespassing into closed areas, and (*b*) for grazing without passes in open areas, were 202,372 and 100,221 respectively. A comparison of these figures with those of the year under report, will show that there was a decrease of 117 under the former, and an increase of

36,820 under the latter class of offences against grazing laws. The cause is not far to seek: it is owing to the population keeping cattle which they do not take care of, but send out to forage for their living, and to the constant endeavour of the owners of cattle to evade the payment of fees. It will be seen that in the closed forests, from which cattle are excluded in the interests of forest conservancy, so that natural and artificial reproduction of timber may not be destroyed, but may have a fair chance of living, 202,255 cattle trespassed, having either wandered in while roaming untended in search of food, or having been deliberately driven in, or having been wilfully allowed to trespass; of this number no less than 59,053 were sheep and 37,797 were goats, the property chiefly of wandering and professional graziers; while from open forests in which grazing of cattle of the bovine species might, in almost all cases, be purchased by paying the fee for a permit, 137,041 cattle were driven to the pound; of this number 49,892 were sheep and 36,853 were goats.

119. In the Konkan and Gujarát, the country of heavy rainfall, of a vigorous growth of grass, cattle trespass is not serious; but in the Deccan, where grass is scarce outside of the forest reserves, while large stocks of cattle are kept for the beef and mutton markets, where the climatic conditions are not so favourable to the growth of vegetation, the rainfall being uncertain and scanty, there cattle-trespass is very severe. The Commissariat Department in Ahmednagar have made a representation of the impossibility of keeping cattle, the property of villagers and others, from trespassing into their grass preserves, even with special watchers put over these preserves, the ordinary rate of pound-fees exercising no deterrent influence upon the owners of cattle. The truth is that the rayat prefers to run the risk of his cattle being caught and impounded, rather than to pay a grazing fee beforehand. Ignorance of forest boundaries, or of the differentiation of closed and open forests, has nothing whatever to do with cattle-trespass: every little cow-boy in a forest village knows where the forest boundaries run, the location and extent of the closed forest and of the open or grazing areas; and there is no difficulty in obtaining grazing permits, for the village officers are supplied with blank permit books for issue of permits to any cattle owner, who may apply for a permit, and they are only too anxious to supply permits, as they receive a percentage of the receipts derived from their sale. With more than three quarters of the whole area of the forests in the Thána district, open to grazing, there is no excuse for the villagers to allow their cattle to go into the closed compartments and plantations, upon the efficient protection of which depends the success of the working plans in respect of them, but they have been doing this so persistently that on the recommendation of the Collector, Government have, in their Resolution No. 4381, dated 18th July 1891, in the Revenue Department, raised the scale of pound fees—

For each buffalo from	...	...Re. 0-8-0	to Re.	1-0-0
For each horse, mare, gelding, &c., from		„ 0-4-0	to „	0-8-0
For each calf, ass, pig, &c., from		„ 0-2-0	to „	0-4-0

and this will possibly have a wholesome effect upon cattle-trespass in the future.

120. As a rule the owners of trespassing cattle, the property of villagers, have generally been warned when the animals are seen in the forests for the first time; and often the animals are driven out a second time even; and it is only after repeated and deliberate infraction of the law that animals are impounded, and action is taken against their owners. Government Resolution No. 5763 of 17th July 1885, in the Revenue Department, in paragraph 2 gives the orders on the point.

121. The Collector and District Magistrate of Khándesh has noted that "it is satisfactory to find that the number of cattle impounded has fallen from 45,821 to 24,500, nearly 50 per cent., in the West Khándesh division, and as the forest establishment would appear to have been, if any thing, more on the alert, it may be taken that the people are getting to know the reserves better and are more careful."

122. The Collector and District Magistrate of Ahmednagar has recorded that "the number of cattle impounded for trespass in open and closed reserves has again been undesirably large. In his remarks as to the reasons for this the

Divisional Forest Officer has omitted to notice the lightness of pound fees. To this, however, he has called attention in a separate report, and proposals to raise the fines in respect of cattle trespassing in the forests of the villages that have been most to blame, have already been submitted to Government."

123. The Collector and District Magistrate of Sátára has stated: "I have no valid reasons for thinking that the forest subordinates impound cattle harshly and unnecessarily. I have found the Range Forest Officers reasonable and intelligent men; when doing jamábandi, I have made it a rule to have the Range Forest Officer of the táluká in question seated by me, and I ask the officers of each village if they have any complaint to make in forest matters, so also I ask the Ranger if he has any complaint against the village, and in this way differences are amicably settled."

3.—CIVIL SUITS.

124. No civil suit was instituted either by or against Government in any of the divisions of the Northern Circle, during the year. The two suits referred to in paragraphs 131 and 132 of last year's report, in the North Thána division, were still under adjudication and remained undecided up to the close of the year.

125. In the Poona division a sum of Rs. 293-1-0 has been recovered from Dipchand Balkisan, out of the amount of Rs. 320-5-5, referred to in paragraph 130 of last year's report.

4.—FOREST FIRES.

126. The following statement exhibits the results of fire conservancy in the several divisions of the Northern Circle, during the year, as compared with those of the year preceding:—

No.	Division.	Forest Area placed under protection against fire.		Acreage burned.		Percentage burned.		Expenditure incurred.		Remarks.
		1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.	
								Rs.	Rs.	
1	North Thána ..	449,465	436,398	53,559	8,613	11·9	1·9	751	2,364	The figures entered in column "Forest area placed under protection against fire" include the areas provisionally notified under Sections 4 and 28 of the Forest Act which are in charge of the Forest Department, but which are not included in Form No. 49.
2	South Thána ..	425,097	377,780	85,300	10,420	20·0	2·7	589	701	
3	East Khándesh ..	518,169	510,796	19,345	33,766	3·7	6·6	95	176	
4	West Khándesh ..	1,088,621	1,088,625	606,972	639,312	55·7	58·7	173	226	
5	Násik ..	763,333	818,499	10,187	11,321	1·3	1·3	102	128	
6	Ahmednagar ..	541,003	541,524	592	374	0·10	0·06	..	.	
7	Poona	476,090	476,645	2,154	3,805	0·45	0·79	63	11	
8	Sátára	440,867	438,684	4,062	993	0·92	0·22	..	..	
9	Sholápur	177,693	177,716	487	222	0·27	0·12	..	.	
10	Surat..	477,930	477,913	433,616	432,583	90·7	90·5	12	43	
11	Panch Mahális ..	212,240	200,109	9,014	10,133	4·2	5·06	1	2	
	Total ..	5,571,508	5,544,689	1,225,268	1,151,542	21·9	20·7	1,786	3,651	

127. In the two forest divisions of Thána greater attention was paid to fire conservancy; and owing to the energetic co-operation of the Collector, the mámlatdárs, police and other district officers, have all been enrolled in the cause of the suppression of forest fires. The round guards were directed to make an immediate report by means of a post-card to the Collector, direct, on the occurrence of fire within the forests of their rounds, so that the revenue and police officers might be at once warned to assist inquiry and make investigation into the origin of a fire, with a view to the detection and punishment of the offender. In the case of fires caused wilfully the main object is shikár, fire being used to remove the undergrowth and leaves, and thus facilitate the pursuit and slaughter of game. The preparation of ash manure in fields, adjoining forest boundaries, has led to the burning of much forest lands in different directions. The damage done by fire in a closed coupe is incalculable, and 15 of the South Thána division fires burnt "closed forest," traversing 755 acres out of a total of 11,112 acres: in one case the fire was caused by smoking rats out of holes, and two of the offenders were caught and punished with rigorous imprisonment for 20 days.

128. In the East Khándesh division fire conservancy has received specially careful attention, and had it not been for a fire, which occurred in the Sátpuda forests in the Yával range, about a fortnight before the close of the dry season,